

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT L 00965 071214Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SSO-00 CIAE-00 PRS-01 /070 W
-----127073 071236Z /50S

R 070840Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6981
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0965

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RH PDEV UK MP
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS

REF: STATE 209162

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AND CHARGE MADE APPROACH ON RHODESIA OUTLINED IN REFTEL TO PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM ON SEPTEMBER 6. SOME DELAY RESULTED DUE TO FACT THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER DID NOT RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE JOINT APPROACH UNTIL SEPTEMBER 5. HE STILL LACKED TALKING POINTS INSTRUCTIONS AND COPY OF WHITE PAPER EVEN AT TIME OF MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER. HE, THEREFORE, DREW HEAVILY UPON TALKING POINTS PROVIDED THROUGH REFTEL, AND USED TEXT OF WHITE PAPER AND ANNEXES WHICH HAD BEEN TELEXED THROUGH STATE CHANNELS.

2. WE HAD PROVIDED THE PRIME MINISTER WITH A COPY OF THE WHITE PAPER AND OWEN'S LAW AND ORDER STATEMENT IN ADVANCE ON SEPT. 5. RAMGOOLAM HAD OBVIOUSLY READ THE DOCUMENTS CLOSELY BEFORE THE MEETING SINCE AS HE GREETED US IN HIS OFFICE, AND BEFORE THE HIGH COMMISSIONER COULD BEGIN WITH HIS PRESENTATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE PLAN -- ESPECIALLY THE TRANSITION AND SECURITY FORCE PROVISIONS -- LOOKED LIKE A GOOD ONE WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE AFRICAN STATES AND TO THE PATRIOTIC
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT L 00965 071214Z

FRONT. BUT, IN HIS OPINION, THE PLAN HAD ONE FATAL FLAW. NOTHING PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE "EXIT OF SMITH WITH SOME DEGREE OF HONOR AND DIGNITY." BRITISH AND AMERICAN DIPLOMATS CAN SURELY COME UP WITH SOME FORMULA WHICH COULD PERMIT SMITH TO SAVE SOME FACE, HE DECLARED. OTHERWISE, SMITH AND HIS SUPPORTERS WILL NEVER AGREE TO THE SCHEME. WE SURELY, RAMGOOLAM INSISTED, COULD NEVER EXPECT SMITH TO BOW OUT AND DISAPPEAR IN DISGRACE.

3. AT ONE POINT THE PRIME MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT SMITH BE GIVEN SOME SORT OF FIGURE-HEAD POSITION IN THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT. WHEN CHARGE QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND OTHER AFRICANS WITH DEEP INTERESTS IN RESOLVING RHODESIAN QUESTION, RAMGOOLAM ANSWERED THAT IT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE, AND THAT HE BELIEVED WE WOULD FIND THE AFRICANS MORE FLEXIBLE NOW ON THIS ISSUE SINCE THEY BELIEVED THEY WOULD HAVE CONTROL OF ZIMBABWE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

4. TWO OR THREE TIMES DURING THE 40 MINUTE EXCHANGE, RAMGOOLAM REMARKED THAT VORSTER MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS DESIGN A MORE HONORABLE EXIT FOR SMITH, AND THUS SPEED UP THE PROCESS.

5. RAMGOOLAM ALSO OFFERED TO HAVE MAURITIUS SERVE AS THE SITE FOR ANY FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AMONG ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE DISPUTE -- INCLUDING THE SMITH GOVERNMENT. HE BELIEVED THAT MAURITIUS WOULD OFFER A BETTER ATMOSPHERE THAN GENEVA FOR ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT.

6. COMMENT: THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL, BUT RATHER ONE SIDED IN THAT THE PRIME MINISTER DID NEARLY ALL THE TALKING. RAMGOOLAM OBVIOUSLY HOLDS THE VERY DEEP CONVICTION THAT WHILE THE PLAN FOR THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT IS ACCEPTABLE IN PRINCIPLE AND SUBSTANCE, IT POSSESSES THE TACTICAL FLAW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT L 00965 071214Z

OF NOT ALLOWING SMITH TO EXIT "HONORABLY." HE CONFIDED AT ONE POINT THAT AS AN AFRICAN HE COULD PROBABLY NEVER PRESS THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE ON OTHER AFRICANS AND THAT HE WANTED US TO VIEW HIS ADVICE AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. THIS MAY EXPLAIN WHY HE RECEIVED US ALONE WITHOUT ANY STAFF MEMBER OR FONMIN OFFICIAL PRESENT.
BROWN

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MS. LONGETEIG, S/S-O.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTL00965
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770323-0391
Format: TEL
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770990/aaaacygd.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d03e4a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 209162
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1364478
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, MP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d03e4a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009